


Claims 57-63, 65, 67, 68 and 71-72 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. The rejection is submitted to be moot because the amended claims 57-59 recite 8 to 40 mils, same as previously presented.

Claims 66-68 and 71-72 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The rejection is submitted to be moot because the recitation of “or ionomer-polyamide blend” is deleted in the amended claims 66-68.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 43, 54, 55, 57-63, 65-72, 83, and 84 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Smith. The rejection is submitted to be moot because the accompanying Rule 131 declaration demonstrates that co-inventor Lori J. Pike conceived and reduced to practice the ionomer/ionomer two-layer film structure before Smith's earliest December 15, 1998 filing date.


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